



EPA Update on Hillcrest Fire Response

Thursday, October 9, 2012

Efforts to put the fire out at the Hillcrest Industries facility in Attica, New York continue going well. Since work began Saturday, September 29, 2012, nearly 32,000 cubic yards of material has been moved and, where necessary, cooled. It is estimated that this accounts for about half of the entire pile. The work is progressing toward the hottest part of the pile. Materials being handled today are at about 575 degrees. The EPA continues to see occasional pockets of open flame, which are quickly extinguished before the material is cooled and moved.

The work is being conducted in a 12 hour daytime shift. Odor remains a nuisance and there is visible steam from the piles. Results of real time monitoring show levels of volatile organic compounds that are mostly not detectable or are very low. Lab results of sampling for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, which are by-products of burning, have mostly shown no detectable levels. However, on October 3, two polycyclic hydrocarbons, naphthalene and a biphenyl, were detected at very low levels from a location just north of the facility, but the levels were below a level of concern. The detected substances north of the facility are in the vicinity of a welding operation. Particulates and dust have been controlled on site and when winds picked up over the weekend additional monitoring was done in the community down wind and no levels of concern were found.

The EPA will continue its work until the fire is entirely out. The Agency will also continue to monitor the air.

Residents with questions or concerns may contact Mike Basile, U.S. EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at (716) 551-4410 or email basile.michael@epa.gov

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